

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A tape cartridge comprising:
2 a reel;
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges;
4 a leader tape; and
5 a splicing tape to link the leader tape to the data tape,
6 the splicing tape having an edge with a slanted portion that is slanted with respect to
7 the side edges of the data tape.
- 1 2. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the leader tape has side edges, and wherein the
2 slanted portion of the edge of the splicing tape is slanted with respect to the side edges of the
3 leader tape.
- 1 3. The tape cartridge of claim 2, wherein the data tape has a longitudinal axis extending
2 along a length of the data tape, and wherein the side edges are generally parallel to the
3 longitudinal axis.
- 1 4. The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the splicing tape has another edge with a
2 slanted portion that is slanted with respect to the side edges of the leader tape and data tape.
- 1 5. The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a housing containing the reel; and
3 a leader pin attached to the leader tape, the leader pin adapted to be removed from the
4 housing.
- 1 6. The tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein the housing has an opening through which the
2 leader pin is adapted to pass through during removal of the leader pin from the housing.

1 7. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the data tape has a first end portion attached to
2 the splicing tape and the leader tape has an end portion attached to the splicing tape, the first
3 end portion of the data tape having a first end edge generally perpendicular to the side edges
4 of the data tape, and the end portion of the leader tape having an end edge generally parallel
5 to the first end edge of the data tape.

1 8. The tape cartridge of claim 7, wherein the data tape has a second end portion having a
2 second end edge, the second end edge being slanted with respect to the side edges of the data
3 tape.

1 9. The tape cartridge of claim 8, wherein the source reel has a hub, the second end
2 portion of the data tape contacted to a surface of the hub.

1 10. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the data tape has a first end portion attached to
2 the splicing tape, the first end portion of the data tape having a first edge slanted with respect
3 to the side edges of the data tape.

1 11. The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the leader tape has side edges and an end
2 portion attached to the splicing tape, the end portion of the splicing tape having an edge
3 slanted with respect to the side edges of the leader tape.

1 12. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the edge of the splicing tape is generally V-
2 shaped.

1 13. The tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the data tape has a first end portion attached
2 to the splicing tape, the first end portion of the data tape having a first edge that is generally
3 V-shaped.

1 14. The tape cartridge of claim 13, wherein the leader tape has an end portion attached to
2 the splicing tape, the end portion of the splicing tape having an edge that is generally V-
3 shaped.

1 15. The tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the data tape has an end portion mounted onto
2 a hub of the source reel, the end portion of the data tape having an edge that is generally V-
3 shaped.

1 16. A tape drive comprising:
2 a take-up reel; and
3 a tape cartridge removably mounted in the tape drive, the tape cartridge comprising:
4 a source reel;
5 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the source reel and
6 having side edges;
7 a second tape; and
8 a splicing tape to couple the second tape to the data tape,
9 the splicing tape having an edge with a portion that is at an inclined angle with
10 respect to the side edges of the data tape.

1 17. The tape drive of claim 16, wherein the tape cartridge further comprises a leader pin
2 attached to the second tape, the tape drive further comprising a mechanism to withdraw the
3 leader pin from the tape cartridge.

1 18. The tape drive of claim 15, wherein the data tape comprises one of a magnetic and
2 optical storage medium.

1 19. A method comprising:
2 providing a tape cartridge having a reel and a storage tape mounted on the reel, the
3 storage tape to store data;
4 providing a splicing tape to link plural tape portions of the storage tape, the splicing
5 tape having side edges generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the storage tape; and
6 providing an end edge of the splicing tape, the end edge having a portion slanted with
7 respect to the side edges.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein providing the splicing tape comprises providing a
2 splicing tape to link a leader tape to a data tape.

- 1 21. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 attaching a first end portion of the data tape to the splicing tape; and
3 providing a slanted edge at a second end portion of the data tape that is mounted onto
4 the reel.
- 1 22. A tape cartridge comprising:
2 a reel;
3 a data tape to store data, the data tape being wound on the reel and having side edges
4 and a first end edge;
5 a leader tape having an end edge in close proximity to the first end edge of the data
6 tape, each of the end edge of the leader tape and first end edge of the data tape being slanted
7 with respect to the side edges of the data tape.